The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC) has been providing soft loans to persons with disabilities through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs). A number of workshops have been planned in collaboration with NHFDC and State Governments to sensitize the NGOs to encourage persons with disabilities to take up self employment ventures. Two workshops have been conducted so far.

Inclusion in OBC/SC/ST list

2118. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending cases of requests for inclusion in the OBC/SC/ST list received from Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal etc.;

(b) the reasons for delay in consideration and finalization of these cases; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) There are 180 requests received from the States of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal, for inclusion in the list of OBC/SC/ST, details of which are follows:

Name of the States	No. of requests received		
	OBC	SC	ST
Tamil Nadu	1	0	69
Rajasthan	6	0	18
Punjab	1	0	13
Jharkhand	0	1	37
Uttaranchal	3	0	31
TOTAL:	11	1	168

(b) and (c) The requests for inclusion in the OBC/SC/ST list are processed in accordance with the approved modalities. It requires consultation with various agencies, which is a time-consuming process.

Dr. Ambedkar International Award

2119. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar International Award for social change has been kept in abeyance by the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation since the year 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Dr. Ambedkar National Award for upliftment of the weaker sections has been kept in abeyance by the Foundation since the year 1999; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Amendment of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order

2120. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order with a view to provide that a person who has been treated as a Scheduled Caste in a State would belong to a Scheduled Caste throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and